

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully notes for the Examiner that Applicant filed a Revocation of Power of Attorney with New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address to the following:

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Applicant respectfully requests that all future correspondence regarding this case be sent to this new address.

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected all of the pending claims (21-32) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,674,287 to Slepian et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 21 to add the element of a first one of the inflatable sections extending to a distal end of the body member and a second of the inflatable sections extending to a proximal end of the body member. Applicant additionally presents new claim 33, which is identical to the previously presented claim 21 with the exception of the inflatable sections extending along substantially all of the length of the body member.

Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 21 distinguishes it and all claims depending from it from the Slepian reference. Applicant further submits that new claim 33 is distinguishable from the Slepian reference.

Conclusion


For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or refund any overpayment of fees in connection with this Response to Deposit Account 50-2837.

Respectfully submitted,

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